

Message

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ECOSWIRE

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ECOS President Keogh Announces Committee Chair Appointments



Reece



Suuberg

ECOS President Becky Keogh of Arkansas announced today the appointment of ECOS committee Chairs who will help guide the organization through the remainder of her term.

Myra Reece of South Carolina will lead ECOS work on U.S. EPA's budget, strategic planning, and related efforts as the new Chair of the Planning Committee. As new Chair of the Water Committee, Marty Suuberg of Massachusetts will oversee ECOS' response to the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule and other key water issues.

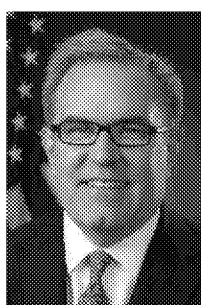
Keogh also appointed Air Committee Chair Ben Grumbles of Maryland, Compliance Committee Chair Carol Comer of Missouri, Innovation & Productivity Chair Misael Cabrera of Arizona, and Waste Committee Chair Chuck Carr Brown of Louisiana to serve a second

year in their positions. Cross-Media Committee Chair Maia Bellon of Washington, who is term-limited, has agreed to lead ECOS' chemicals and toxics work through the Spring Meeting.

Congratulations to all of these members!

Other ECOS members interested in leadership opportunities should watch *ECOSWIRE* next week for a call for committee Vice Chair nominations. Per the ECOS bylaws, the President appoints committee chairs, and committees made up of all ECOS members elect Vice Chairs. [Hanson]

Senate Clears Nomination of Wheeler to Serve as U.S. EPA Administrator



Andrew Wheeler

By a vote of 52-47, the Senate voted February 28 to confirm Andrew Wheeler to serve as President Trump's second permanent Administrator. Wheeler's nomination captured the support of all of the chamber's Republicans except Susan Collins (R-ME), who cited EPA's deregulation on climate. All Senate Democrats voted against the nomination. Wheeler was appointed Acting Administrator last summer following the resignation of Scott Pruitt.

"It is truly humbling to serve the American public as EPA Administrator," said Wheeler following the vote. "I want to thank President Trump for nominating me and [Majority] Leader McConnell and [Environment & Public Works Committee] Chairman Barrasso for navigating my confirmation through the Senate."

Wheeler will speak at the ECOS Spring Meeting on April 8 alongside ECOS President

Register by COB Today for Spring Meeting Early Bird Rate

White House CEQ Chairwoman Joins Speaker Lineup



If you haven't yet registered for the action-packed ECOS Spring Meeting, do so by COB today, **March 1**, to receive the early bird rate! ECOS today issued a new and expanded [draft agenda](#) for the gathering in Crystal City, Virginia on *Partnership in Action: Advancing Collaboration, Certainty, & Confidence*. Among the newly confirmed speakers for the meeting is Mary Neumayr, Chairwoman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Confirmed keynoters include U.S. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Senate Environment & Public Works Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE). In the spirit of collaboration, the meeting also will feature discussions with U.S. EPA Associate and Regional Administrators and a dinner reception at the Canadian Embassy.

Sessions will touch on a range of timely topics: oil and gas methane, stormwater and nutrient management, water infrastructure, air monitoring, digital transformation, permit timeliness, regulatory compliance, PFAS, recycling, the energy/environment nexus, renewables, budgets, state legislative relations, and more.

Reserve a room without delay at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel! See registration, hotel, and contact information [here](#). [Parisien]

ECOS Role Highlighted at U.S. House Committee Hearing on Enforcement

On February 26, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing on U.S. EPA's enforcement program that featured testimony from Susan Bodine, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance (OECA). In his opening remarks, Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR) noted that he was encouraged by the work of ECOS on Cooperative Federalism 2.0 and highlighted efforts of the ECOS Compliance Assurance Workgroup.

In her testimony, Bodine emphasized OECA's commitment to reaching improved compliance outcomes through collaboration with state agency partners, mentioning a series of video teleconferences OECA held with each state to ensure clear communication among state and federal partners.

For more information on the hearing, see [here](#). [MacCartney]

U.S. EPA Announces Development of Water Reuse Action Plan

This week, U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator for Water David Ross announced the development of a [Water Reuse Action Plan \(WRAP\)](#) that will leverage the expertise of both industry and government to ensure the effective use of the nation's water resources. The ECOS Shale Gas Caucus and Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council will participate in dialogue surrounding the plan.

EPA will facilitate discussions among state, federal, and water sector stakeholders and form new partnerships to develop and deploy the blueprint. A draft plan is scheduled for release and public review in September at the Annual WaterReuse Symposium in San Diego, California.

Partners will evaluate opportunities and challenges in several areas: technological improvements, regulatory analysis, financial initiatives, performance requirements, access to water use and availability data, and outreach opportunities.

For more information, including opportunities to engage with EPA on this effort, click [here](#).
[Piper]



State News You Can Use

[Michigan Announces Results of First-of-its-Kind Statewide PFAS
Sampling](#)

[Wyoming Touts 2018 Nonpoint Source Successes in New Story
Map Format](#)

[Tennessee Awards \\$1.9 Million in Grants to Help Reduce Landfill
Waste](#)

Texas Repurposes More Than 33 Million Tires

Puerto Rican Communities Regain Access to Water Infrastructure Funds

Need-to-Know News in Air & Land and Waste

U.S. EPA Retains Current NAAQS Standard for Sulfur Dioxide

Area of Focus: Air

U.S. EPA has announced its final decision to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set and periodically review NAAQS for "criteria pollutants" such as SO₂. If appropriate, EPA revises the standards to ensure they provide requisite protection for public health, allowing for an adequate margin of safety. In this case, EPA and its independent advisors on this topic, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, agreed that the existing standard continues to protect public health. [Poole]

U.S. EPA Sets Public Hearing on Mercury and Air Toxics Standards

Area of Focus: Air

U.S. EPA will hold a public hearing on **March 18** in Washington, DC on the proposed Supplemental Cost Finding for the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS). To speak at

the hearing, register [here](#). The deadline for receipt of written comments has been extended to April 17.

As outlined in the draft rule published in February 2019, EPA proposes to leave emissions limits on coal and oil-fired power plants in place but to find that it is not “appropriate and necessary” to regulate those emissions based on the proposed new supplemental cost finding. [Poole]

Former ASTSWMO Executive Director Tom Kennedy Passes Away

Area of Focus: Land and Waste

It is with sadness that ECOS reports the passing of Tom Kennedy, Executive Director from 1987 until 2007 of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO). A retired U.S. Army Colonel who resided in Fairfax, Virginia, Kennedy died peacefully on February 22.

During a military career that spanned 27 years, Kennedy received numerous awards and commendations, including two Bronze Star medals. He completed two tours in Vietnam and later served in intelligence in the U.S. and abroad. Following his military career, Kennedy served 20 years at the helm of ASTSWMO, often working closely with ECOS on waste policy matters.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Patricia, along with three children and six grandchildren. [Parisien]



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E-Enterprise Spotlights Pioneering Massachusetts Permit Efforts

As part of its effort to promote timely permit review, E-Enterprise for the Environment recently hosted a webinar spotlighting work of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on a state electronic permitting system. The department worked with state partners to first streamline processes, and then develop and deploy a scalable e-permitting platform using standard components and workflows for MassDEP, the Department of Agricultural Resources, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. MassDEP developed eight standard workflows encompassing 258 permit types as well as 15 data standards including address, entity/actor, location, revenue, public comments, and facility/site. Standardized reusable components within each permit application form include fees provisions, signature and certification, and application submitted page.

The webinar is available for viewing [here](#) . See more on the ePermitting ePLACE portal [here](#), and on the Information Data portal [here](#). Also, watch for a session on permit timeliness at the ECOS Spring Meeting! [Parisien/Graves]

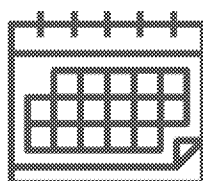
Opportunities

U.S. EPA Seeks State, Other Nominees for Great Lakes Advisory Board

U.S. EPA seeks nominations of qualified candidates to serve as members of its newly reestablished Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB). The board will provide advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator through the Great Lakes National Program Manager on matters related to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada.

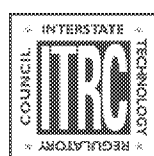
The GLAB will be composed of approximately 15 members who will serve as representative members of non-federal interests. EPA will consider candidates representing a broad range of interests, including state, local, and tribal governments; business groups; environmental organizations; academia and state, local and tribal governments.

For more information, see [here](#). [Parisien]



Upcoming Events

ITRC on Groundwater Statistics for Environmental Project Managers



ITRC will hold an online training course on *Groundwater Statistics for Environmental Project Managers* on **March 7 at 1-3:15**

p.m. Eastern.

Statistical techniques may be used throughout the process of cleaning up contaminated groundwater. It can be challenging for practitioners who are not experts in statistics to interpret and use statistical techniques. The training class will encourage and support project managers and others who are not statisticians to: use the ITRC [guidance document](#) on *Groundwater Statistics and Monitoring Compliance* to make better decisions for projects; apply key aspects of the statistical approach to groundwater data; and answer common questions on background, compliance, trend analysis, and monitoring

optimization.

Learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]

U.S. EPA and Army Corps on WOTUS

U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are hosting various opportunities for state input on the proposed Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule as part of the public review process. EPA and the Army will host half-day discussions for state officials, which will allow for state input on the [proposed new definition](#) and implementation considerations. This week the first meeting was held in Kansas City, Kansas, and two additional state meetings are scheduled as follows:

March 11 in Atlanta, Georgia

Register for this forum [here](#).

March 26 in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Register for this meeting [here](#). [Piper]

E-Enterprise Facility Integration Team on Accomplishments & Upcoming Milestones

The E-Enterprise Facility Integration Team Co-Chairs invite you to their upcoming webinar on **March 12 at 2:30-4 p.m. Eastern** on the team's Phase 3 accomplishments and remaining projects. This project aims to develop shared services to connect various sources of regulated facility information, streamline reporting, and yield more accurate, timely facility information. The team leaders will provide an overview of the expanded EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS) E-Enterprise services and new FRS capabilities.

Topics will include: synchronizing data updates between a state and U.S. EPA, reporting on the pilot project that synchronized the Rhode Island and EPA facility databases, and scoping requirements for a unified facility status micro-service that could support multiple environmental programs.

To attend the webinar, please register [here](#). For more information, click [here](#). [Poole]

U.S. EPA on Watershed Hazard Mitigation

The U.S. EPA Office of Water's [Watershed Academy](#) is offering a webinar on **March 14 at 1-3 p.m. Eastern** entitled "Lessons Learned on Integrating Water Quality and Nature-based Approaches into Hazard Mitigation Plans." EPA is promoting integration of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation plans and water quality plans to support projects that reduce natural hazards while emphasizing water quality benefits. This webcast will look at two completed pilot projects that have successfully integrated watershed planning, green infrastructure practices, and source water protection into FEMA hazard mitigation plans.

Speakers will include Myra Schwartz of U.S. EPA Region 1, Carrie Robinette of FEMA, and Josh Bruce of the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience.

Participants must [register](#) in advance to attend this webcast. Please contact WatershedAcademySupport@cadmusgroup.com with any questions. [Piper]

U.S. EPA on Preventing Food Waste Upstream

U.S. EPA will host a sustainable materials management webinar on **March 14 at 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. Eastern** on preventing food waste upstream. The webinar, which is the third a source reduction approach series, will focus on the definition of source reduction and examples of award-winning cases at a restaurant, a state park, and a county correctional facility that prevent wasted food at the source. Speakers include Kelsey Davis of the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation.

To register, see [here](#). View the [first](#) and [second](#) parts of the series. [Longsworth]

U.S. EPA on ECHO behind the Scenes

U.S. EPA will hold a webinar on the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database on **April 9 1:30-2:30 pm Eastern**. During this webinar, EPA will go "behind the scenes" of ECHO, answering questions about environmental data such as:

- From which EPA program systems does ECHO retrieve data?
- How frequently are the data updated, and how do I make corrections?
- How can I download ECHO data?

- What are ECHO web services?

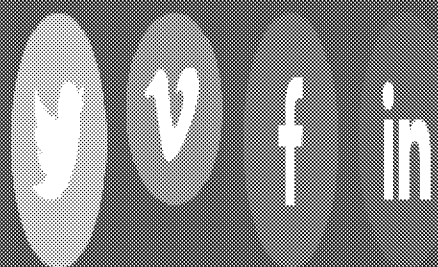
If you are interested in a specific topic or would like to suggest a question to answer during the webinar, please send feedback to [ECHO Support](#). Every six months U.S. EPA will highlight a different feature of ECHO, and each webinar will be recorded and shared on the [ECHO training page](#).

Register [here](#). [Piper]

U.S. EPA on Removing Chemicals of Emerging Concern

U.S. EPA will hold its monthly Tools and Resources Webinar on **March 20 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern** to highlight cost effective treatment technologies for removing chemicals of emerging concern (CEC), including PFAS. CECs, chemicals that have not previously been detected in water or that are being detected at significantly different levels than expected, pose numerous challenges to drinking water treatment plants. This presentation will discuss three CECs (PFAS, cyanotoxins, and perchlorate) and discuss cost-effective solutions for small systems.

Register [here](#). [Longsworth]



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